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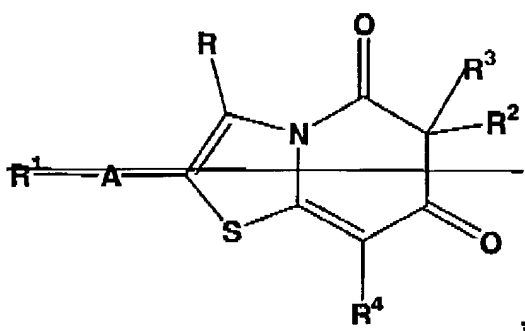
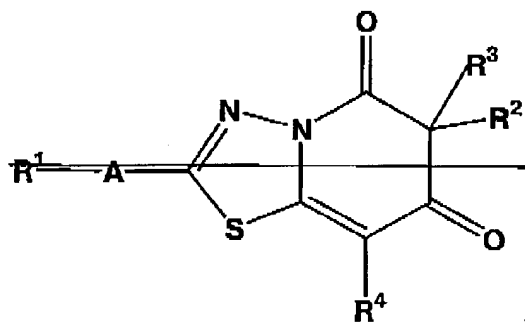
# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

## Listing of claims:

**Claim 1 (canceled).**

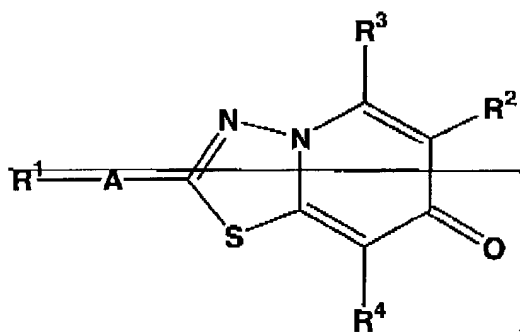
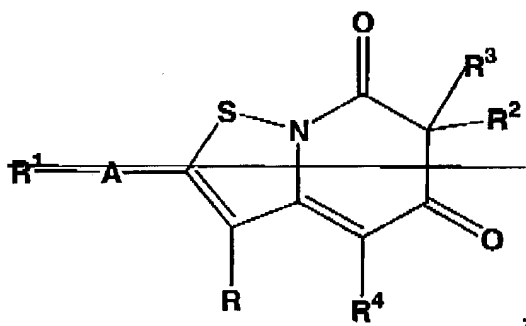
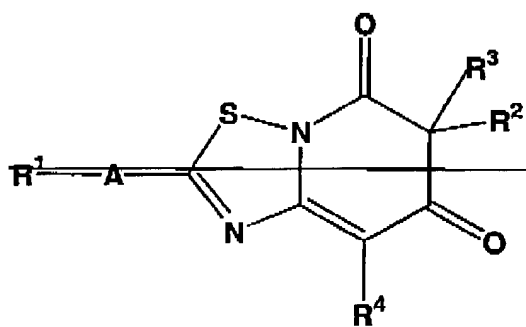
**Claim 2 (currently amended).** ~~The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:~~ A compound of formula



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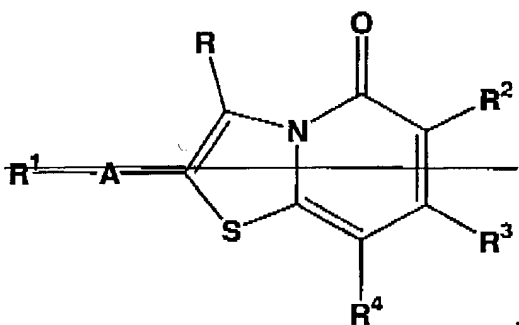
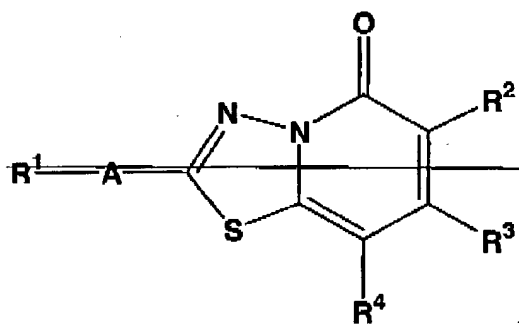
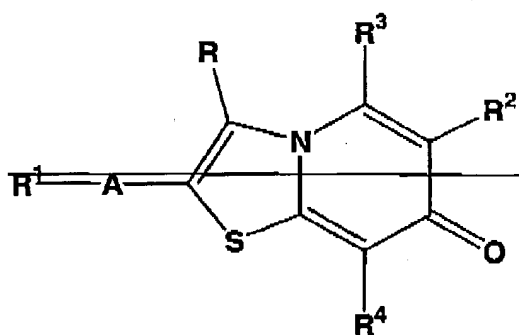
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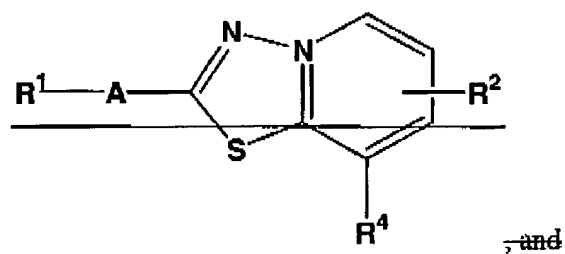
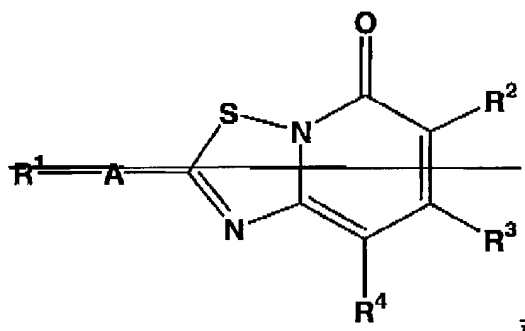
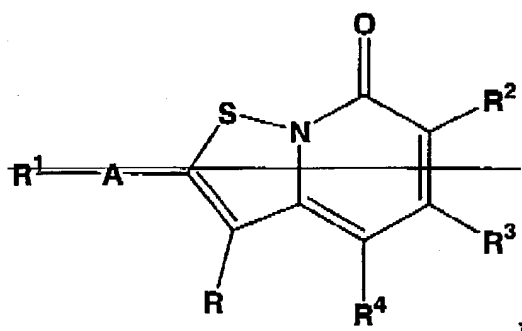
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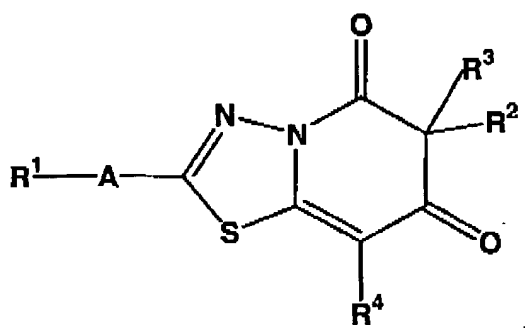
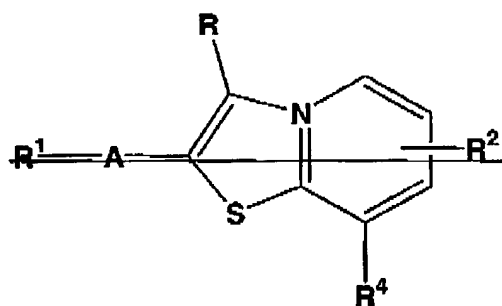
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wherein A is  $-NR(C=O)-$ ;

wherein each R,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  are the same or different, where ever they appear, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-; wherein each of the aforesaid group members, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-

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C<sub>6</sub>alkynyl-, and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, may be optionally independently substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, -CN, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy-, CF<sub>3</sub>-, CF<sub>3</sub>O-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-, HO(C=O)-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-(O)(C=O)-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-(O)(C=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-(C=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-, -(S=O)R-, -(SO<sub>2</sub>)R, and NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup> wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently selected from hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

wherein each R and R<sup>3</sup> may further independently be hydrogen;

R<sup>4</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, and R<sup>4</sup> may be optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, -CN, CF<sub>3</sub>-, and CF<sub>3</sub>O-; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**Claim 3 (currently amended).** The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-.

**Claim 4 (currently amended).** The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heterocyclyl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-, and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)heteroaryl-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-.

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**Claim 5 (currently amended).** The compound according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to 4~~ Claims 2 to 4, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently selected from  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl- $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl- and  $(C_1-C_{10})$ heteroaryl- $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl-.

**Claim 6 (currently amended).** The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ , and  $R^6$   $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl-.

**Claim 7 (currently amended).** The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2 selected from the group consisting of:

~~6-Benzyl-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid-benzylamide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid-benzylamide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid-benzylamide~~

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~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid-benzylamide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide, and~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide,~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~  
~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid-benzylamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

**Claim 8 (currently amended).** A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of connective tissue disorders, inflammatory disorders, immunology/allergy disorders, infectious diseases, respiratory diseases,

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cardiovascular diseases, eye diseases, metabolic diseases, central nervous system (CNS) disorders, liver/kidney diseases, reproductive health disorders, gastric disorders, skin disorders and cancers in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

**Claim 11 (original).** The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 8, comprising a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.

**Claim 12 (currently amended).** A method for treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient suffering from an arthritis disease a nontoxic antiarthritic effective amount of a compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**Claim 13 (original).** The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound administered is a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.